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EDITORIAL NOTES

OUR OUTLOOK.

Unaffected by the unfortunate political turmoil convulsing the State, or the turbulence of the campaign preceding our usual biennial elections, the State Historical Society and its exponent, the *Journal*, are pursuing the even tenor of their way with gradually increasing popularity and prosperity. The membership of the Society is steadily enlarging, and the circle of *Journal* readers correspondingly expanding. The Society's staff of earnest, enthusiastic workers is not so numerous as it should be, or as it will be in course of time, but it numbers some of the brightest and ablest men and women of our State. And the contents of the *Journal*, tho not invariably profound or strictly academic, will, on the average, compare very favorably, in matter and scholarly diction, with that of the quarterly publications of other state historical societies of our country.

In a journal of this character—a medium of communication between the State Historical Society and the public—it is deemed better that formalities, technical terms, and superfluous veribage be avoided as far as practicable, and facts be stated in plain popular language. As the years pass its historical contributions necessarily deal with the more superficial (or recent) and reminiscent but none the less interesting and valuable history. Current events, which soon fall in the class of history, are readily forgotten, and, in many instances, all account of them would be lost with the death of contemporaneous citizens who still retain some memory of them. Memories of that

kind, reinforced by such records as may have been made at the time, are particularly desired for permanent preservation in the pages of this Journal. In every county there are matters of local history of this kind that should be printed before they fade from all human memory. Many incidents and events annually transpiring are not published in full, sometimes for prudential reasons, by local newspapers; and when they are, the files of those papers are not always immune from destruction by fire, or loss otherwise, and thus it happens that the memory becomes the only depository of such history.

By the continued effort of the State Historical Society—and its *Journal*—the people of Illinois are realizing the importance of our work, and some of them are rendering us valuable assistance—as the pages of the *Journal* attest.

Grateful for that assistance, we desire very much that recruits be added to those willing helpers. The field is wide, the harvest is abundant, and there is room for many more zealous gleaners.

* THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY.

If activity in publication is a sign of life in an institution devoted to historical research, the State of Illinois is to be congratulated on its Historical Library. Since the appointment of the Historical Manuscripts Advisory Commission in 1905, there have been published four volumes of the series called Illinois Historical Collections, which series was begun in 1903 under the editorship of the late H. W. Beckwith, in the publication of the first volume of the Collections, all of which have received favorable reviews in the magazines and newspapers of the

*For list of the publications of the Society and Library see printed list on last pages of this Journal.

country. The policy of the Board of Trustees has been to appoint upon the advice of the Advisory Commission an editor or editors for each volume. When the manuscript is prepared, it is submitted to the Advisory Commission and Special Editor of Publications for approval. In this way scientific accuracy is secured and a high standard of editing maintained.

The process of editing naturally takes considerable time, but the present fiscal year will see the work of the past few years bear fruit in the form of several important publications. It will be worth while, therefore, to make an announcement of the coming publications so that readers of the Journal may enjoy those pleasures of anticipation as such a prospect may bring.

During this summer two volumes are in the press and will be ready for distribution in the fall. Volume VI of the collections is entitled "Bibliographical Series, Volume I, Newspapers and Periodicals of Illinois, 1814-1879." The editor of this is Franklin W. Scott of the Department of English in the University of Illinois. Mr. Scott has been collecting material for this volume for several years by means of hundreds of letters written to editors and others, and by personal examinations of files of newspapers in the libraries of the United States. In its five hundred odd pages will be found the most complete list of such publications ever published for any section of the country. Care has been also taken to indicate where files of newspapers and periodicals may be found, if any such exist. The whole is introduced by a sketch of newspapers in Illinois which will be regarded as the best account of this important phase of Illinois history that has been so far written.

The second volume now in the press is the second of the "Executive Series" and contains the "Governors' Letter-Books," which are preserved in the Secretary of State's office. These include the letters of the Governors during the years 1840-1853. The editors are Evarts B. Greene and Charles M. Thompson of the State University. The volume will contain about six hundred pages with full notes on important subjects and the persons

mentioned. The letters are introduced by a careful study of Governor Ford's administration by Mr. Thompson, in which the various sources available for the period are exhaustively used.

Of greater popular interest than these are the volumes of George Rogers Clark papers which Mr. James A. James of Northwestern University is preparing for the "Collections." Mr. James has devoted several years to this work. The material has been found widely scattered in Madison, Indianapolis, Vincennes, Louisville, Washington, Richmond, Paris, and London. Never before has there been an attempt to gather together all the sources for the life of this most important of westerners, nor has any historian before attempted even to examine them. The several volumes—for there will be two or three—devoted to Clark will, therefore, add much to our knowledge of the west during the revolutionary and critical period; and this edition will be regarded as a definitive piece of work on the subject. They will form part of the "Virginia Series" and will supplement the volumes containing the Cahokia and Kaskaskia Records.

Two volumes which will appear at about the same time as the "Clark Papers" will be devoted to "British Illinois, 1765-1778." These will be edited by Clarence W. Alvord of the State University and Clarence E. Carter, formerly of Illinois College, now of Miami University. The two editors have gone as far afield in search of material as has Mr. J. A. James. The greater part of the manuscripts to be published, however, have been found in London, Albany and Philadelphia. The editors propose exhibiting exhaustively the conditions of trade in the Illinois country, and the various attempts to form a colony in this region, one of which even created a crisis in the British Ministry. It is expected that these two volumes will clear up the material for this epoch as completely as the volumes of the Collections already published or in preparation do for the later Virginia period.

A CRITICISM OF THE JOURNAL OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS, Aug. 18, 1910.

MRS. JESSIE PALMER WEBER, *Secretary of the State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois.*

DEAR MADAM—I have received several copies of the “Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.” They are handsome volumes, but they are a nuisance, for two reasons. First, the leaves are uncut and a busy man has not time to cut the leaves when he is in a hurry; secondly, the volumes are so long that they will not fit into any ordinary book shelves and are liable to be thrown around into “any old place” where they will fit.

Yours very truly,

THOS. WORTHINGTON.

The above letter from Hon. Thomas Worthington, a member of the Illinois State Historical Society, needs no explanation.

The editors of the Journal are glad to hear from the members upon any subject relating to the affairs of the Society and welcome suggestions for the improvement of the Journal.

It is likely that there may be a change in the appearance of the Journal at the beginning of the next volume, as the present style is very expensive, and if the members can, as Mr. Worthington has done, suggest alterations for the better, the editors will welcome the suggestions.

MEETING OF THE PEORIA COUNTY OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The forty-third annual picnic and outing of the Peoria County Old Settlers' Association was held at Glen Oak

Park, near Peoria, on Wednesday, September 7, 1910, and was attended by an immense crowd which was estimated at about twelve thousand people.

The old settlers were welcomed by John A. Bush, the president of the association, and addresses were delivered by Judson Starr, Rev. F. J. O'Reilly, George T. Page and others. Avery Dalton, aged 102 years, and his brother, Drewry Dalton, aged 92, were among the most interesting and interested attendants upon the outing. These two gentlemen were given seats of honor at the guests' table at the dinner. They both reside at Elmwood. Miss Jane Haggin, aged 97, was given a prize as the oldest woman present. There were several other persons there who were over ninety years of age, and many who were well past four score years. The weather was perfect and every arrangement had been made for the comfort and enjoyment of all attendants upon the reunion.

MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE WOOD RIVER MASSACRE.

On the spot where occurred the Indian massacre in Madison county, Illinois, on July 10, 1814, was recently erected and was dedicated Sunday September 12, 1910, a monument to the memory of the victims. The monument is on the Fosterburg road east of Alton. The stone is twenty feet in height and bears the names of the persons who were killed at that time. The monument was erected by the descendants of Abel Moore, and it and its grounds were presented to Madison county. The monument was unveiled by Miss Hazel Moore, and Frank E. Moore of Chicago presided over the meeting. The principal address was delivered by Hon. J. Nick Perrin. A full account of the dedication ceremonies will be given in the next issue of the Journal.

MONUMENT TO SOLDIERS OF THE WAR BE-
TWEEN THE STATES, ERECTED NEAR
GLENARM, ILLINOIS.

On Tuesday, August 9, 1910, a monument erected by Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Pulliam in memory of their friends who served in the civil war was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in the Cumberland cemetery near Glenarm, Sangamon county, Illinois. The monument is surmounted by a statue of a volunteer soldier in uniform. Both the monument and statue are of Barre granite. On the monument is a bronze tablet which bears the following inscription:

“Erected by C. I. Pulliam and Wife in Memory of
their Friends who Served in the Civil War.”

The inscription is followed by the names and regiments of the soldiers to whom the monument was erected.

The regiments represented are the 7th, 73rd, 30th, 114th, 124th, 133rd, Illinois Infantry regiments; the 3rd, 10th and 12th Illinois Cavalry regiments and three Missouri and two Ohio regiments.

An eloquent address was delivered by Hon. James H. Matheny, who had personally known the families of many of the soldiers in honor of whose names and deeds the monument was erected. A large crowd was present to witness the unveiling of the monument.

THE SITE OF OLD FORT CREVE COEUR.

Mr. Dan R. Sheen, in the Peoria Star, in the issue of Sunday, September 11, 1910, gives an exhaustive account of the history and tradition relating to LaSalle's fort in the Illinois country, about which there has been so much

speculation and uncertainty. As we have stated before in the Journal, Mr. Sheen believes that he has found, on some land which he owns, evidences of the actual location of the fort.

In the article mentioned Mr. Sheen presents an array of historical facts and evidence which is most interesting and valuable.